

Sparta Police Department

Employee Corrective Action Form

Employee Name: Ralph Jones **Date:** 7/23/24

Job Title: Patrolman **Supervisor:** Chief S. Lukes/Asst. Chief J. Kempfer

Level of Corrective Action

Oral Reprimand	Written Reprimand	X Suspension	Termination
Facts: On 7/16/24, while assisting in the arrest of a juvenile subject (CAD 24-2682,2680) Officer R. Jones violated policy P081 Portable Audio/Video Recorders (body Camera) being that during the foot pursuit and after arrest events Officer R. Jones did not have his body camera activated per policy. Officer R. Jones also violated policy P023 Use of Force. Officer R. Jones used force that was unreasonable and not supported by policy on the suspect after the suspect had been handcuff and secured in the rear of another Officer's patrol car. See report on situation for full notes.			

Employee's Explanation:

See Officer's video recorded interview.

Expectations: That Officer R. Jones follow department policy and understand what is appropriate action in situations that require or do not require the use of force.

Corrective Action Plan: Officer R. Jones will read and sign off on both Policy P081 and P023 as read and understood. Officer R. Jones will see a counselor to speak with about this situation, do to the fact that Officer R. Jones was both a victim and responding Officer in this case. Counseling will be provided by the Police Department to ensure that Officer Jones can properly process this situation and how to handle events that could happen in the future.

Action Taken: Officer R. Jones will be suspended from duty for a period of three days. This suspension shall take place either by three days of unpaid leave from duty or by the giving up of three days' worth of vacation time in place of the unpaid leave. Officer R. Jones will choose which option he will serve out. Officer R. Jones will also be required to speak with a counselor about the events to ensure that he has been able to process it appropriately.

Next Action Step If Issue Continues: Any continued actions or violations of policy will be handled through progressive discipline action.

I acknowledge receipt of this disciplinary action and that its contents have been discussed with me. I understand that my signature does not necessarily indicate agreement.

Employee Signature:

Ralph Jones

Supervisor Signature:

See in [illegible]

Date:

7/23/24



Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

JB Pritzker, Governor
Keith Calloway, Executive Director

Phone: 217/782-4540
Fax: 217/524-5350
TDD: 866-740-3933

August 1, 2024

Chief Sean Lukes
Sparta Police Dept
112 W Jackson St
Sparta, IL 62286

RE: Ralph Jones
PTBID: [REDACTED]
Separation Date: not applicable

Dear Chief Lukes:

The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board has received a Notice of Incident/Arrest for the above-named officer.

Please submit your internal investigative file and copy of final report for this incident to PTB.Certification@illinois.gov. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Sincerely,

Keith Calloway
Executive Director

KC/jrw

Enclosure

Sparta Police Dept. Problem Solving Meeting

Date of Meeting: 7/16/24
Officer that was met with: Officer R. Jones
Purpose of meeting: Documentation of events surrounding CADs 24-2682 and 24-2680
Supervisors: Chief of Police S. Lukes, Sgt. Mahan, and myself
Time and Place: 7/16/24

This document is a record of the events dealing with CAD 24-2680 and 24-2682 with Officer R. Jones. On 7/15/24, see CAD 24-2680 Officer R. Jones had his alarm go off at his residence at 2335 hours. This was reported to the Police Department and investigated in CAD 24-2680. Later on, 7/16/24 Officer R. Jones was at work when CAD 24-2682 call came out. This call was in the neighborhood of Officer R. Jones and appeared that the same suspect could be involved.

Officer R. Jones, Sgt. Mahan, Chief S. Lukes, and myself all responded to that call. After a foot pursuit the suspect being a 16-year-old was taken into custody by Sgt. Mahan. The suspect was placed in the rear of Sgt. Mahan's car. While on scene Sgt. Mahan advised that he lost his body camera in the ditch near where the suspect was taken into custody. Mahan, Lukes, and I were in that area looking for the camera when Officer Jones arrived on scene.

I heard Officer Jones state where his he? Sgt. Mahan responded in the rear of my patrol car and with the name of the suspect. We finished at that time, other Officer's on scene were Deputy Eric Steely and Coulterville Chief of Police Jason Schlesinger.

Once at the Police Department Officer Jones reported to Sgt. Mahan and I that he had choked and slapped the suspect and it is on body camera in the Sgt. Office. At this time both of us were unaware that anything had happened. Sgt. Mahan later completed the interview of the suspect and reported to me that the suspect said Officer R. Jones and choked and hit him. Suspect says this three times in the interview. Then he stated that Officer Jones treated him like shit because he thinks I tried to break into his house. I reviewed the video later and saw that the suspect stated that I want to know why Officer Jones wants to try to choke and hit me? The suspect states he was in the back of the car when this happened and made a motion like he was choking someone. The suspects age is 16 years old. There were no injuries located on the suspect. At this time, I asked Officer R. Jones to give me his body camera to be downloaded.

I took the camera and downloaded its contents and realized that the camera had not been activated during the time of the incident. I then retrieved the video that was saved that showed the event with no audio. I saw on the video that Officer Jones arrived and walked to my patrol car and tried to open the door. He then walked to Sgt. Mahan's vehicle and opened the door and grabbed the suspect with both hands by the coat and pulled him close to him. He then after a moment released him back into the seat. I also saw that Deputy Steely was at Officer Jones's back as if he was guiding him away from the door of the car.

The suspect was handcuffed and under arrest when this incident happened. Chief Lukes then called Deputy Steely and spoke with him about the incident and I spoke with Chief Schlesinger. Schlesinger told me that he did not see the incident but heard it. Schlesinger stated that he heard yelling and something that sounded like don't you ever come to my house again and I will end you come from Officer R. Jones. Schlesinger also stated that Deputy Steely told him I intervened and grabbed Ralph's shoulder and told him to stop.

At this time Chief Lukes and I interviewed Officer Jones and below is the transcript of that interview.

silence> All right. So Ralph, you know what, we had the incident this morning with the, the guy that broke into the, um, the church there. And so the reason we're in here to talk about things you just need to, your perspective of what took place once he was in custody in the back of Officer Ian's car.

11:10 AM / 01:18

So last night at 1128, my alarm went off at my house. Uh, I was on the phone, I grabbed my pistol, went downstairs. Uh, I was on the phone with the alarm company. She said it was my back garage door sensor. So I went there. The door was still secure, but I noticed that it was pushed out at the top. Uh, I exited the back side of my house, heard my chain link fence rattle. By that time I was already over on this corner and I seen a kid, or I seen a person, I don't wanna say a kid, but I seen a person running between what appeared to be a, like a tree. And I seen that it was like a, a shiny jacket or shiny something on thought. Maybe it was just a do or maybe he had, they had fallen or something.

11:11 AM / 02:10

Uh, the kid was, or the person was running South East. So this morning when we got the call, I turned on Spartan Drive, turned on Athens Drive. And I seen the same per, or the a person running, uh, at a slow walk, jog, something like that. Uh, and when he seen me, he turned away from me and I could see that it was the same jacket, same build, and he ran with his kind of his head down. And I notified on the radio that it was the same guy that kicked in my door last night. When I went to the scene where he was handcuffed, I opened up the back door, I reached in, I grabbed a hold of him and told him, don't ever come around my fucking house again. Uh, I didn't choke him. I didn't hit him. I didn't cheap shot him. I didn't do any of those things. I grabbed a hold of his shirt with my hands closed, and I pulled him close to me and I said, don't ever come around my fucking house again. And he said, I'm sorry, I didn't know it was your house. And I let him go close the door, and that was it,

11:12 AM / 03:15

Ralph. What was, what was the reason to make contact with him at that point?

11:12 AM / 03:21

Because I didn't want, because if he would've been in my garage, I would've shot him. And, you know, it was kind of a, a surreal moment that, that I was angry because my wife was upset. We had just moved into this house. We had been into this house three months, maybe right after three months. And I don't want him back on my property. So by the, by law, I have to notify him that he's not to be on my property. I don't have trespassing signs. So that's what I did. Did I use color to colorful adjectives? I did.

11:13 AM / 04:05

You mean by cursing?

11:13 AM / 04:06

Yes, but I didn't yell. I didn't, uh, you guys were there. You didn't hear me yell. So I grabbed a hold of him and said, don't ever come on my fucking property again. So,

11:13 AM / 04:19

So you grabbed a hold of him and explained that,

11:13 AM / 04:20

Grabbed a hold of him and pull him closer to get my point across. That's what I did. I didn't, like I said, I didn't hit him. I didn't choke him. I didn't do anything, but the man kicked in my fucking back door. So,

11:13 AM / 04:32

Do you know this man?

11:13 AM / 04:34

I had some dealings with him at the high school. Uh, he was, uh, he was looking at guns on his tablet thing or his computer, and they wanted me to talk to him. So I did. I sat down and talked to him. Uh, he explained to me that he understands how that would freak people out. Uh, had what I thought was a good rapport with him. Uh, he thanked me for sitting down and talking to

him, uh, shook hands. I went and then spoke to his mom and his, and Doug. Doug has issues with me. I don't know what for, but he always has. Uh, and she thanked me for talking to me. So I would say that the interactions that, um, he and I have had, have been very cordial. I've had, uh, two, the second one was, uh, a possible fight. And I went to his house. He was standing out there, uh, went up to him and said, Hey man, you gotta knock it off. Can't be making no threats on social media, and he gets you in trouble again. He said, thanks Jones. I, Hey man, no problem. See you later. Bye. That was the only two interactions I've ever had with him. But they were both pleasant.

11:14 AM / 05:44

When you were interacting with him in the back of the squad car, did you make any comments about, uh, I will end you or anything like that?

11:14 AM / 05:51

Uh, maybe, possibly. I don't know. I was, worked up.

11:15 AM / 05:57

Any reason why your body camera wasn't activated?

11:15 AM / 06:01

I actually thought it was when I got in the foot, so I, I actually thought it was on. That's why, like I said, with the other two officers there, I told them that, uh, Hey man, I don't mean to put you in a trick bag. I wasn't trying to get you out to please tell everybody the truth, what you seen. I don't have any issues to, or any reason to hide anything. I said. He asked me if my body camera's on. I said, it's right there. Uh, so I actually thought that it was,

11:15 AM / 06:32

Do you think your actions were appropriate, right? Yes. By what standard though? He

11:15 AM / 06:40

Kicked in my fucking back door.

11:15 AM / 06:41

And I, and I understand that.

11:15 AM / 06:43

How would you react?

11:15 AM / 06:44

I understand that, Ralph.

11:15 AM / 06:45

You wouldn't answer my question. How would you react?

11:15 AM / 06:47

I don't want to react that way.

11:15 AM / 06:50

You wouldn't be upset?

11:15 AM / 06:51

I'd be upset, yes, but I

11:15 AM / 06:53

Do not, don't I have the same Right. To be upset

11:15 AM / 06:55

You do, but upset. What I'm asking you is, do you think that putting hands on a suspect in custody

11:16 AM / 07:02

And telling him not to come back on my property, I think it was very appropriate.

11:16 AM / 07:09

Okay.

11:16 AM / 07:13

Have you had any more contact with him since the car incident?

11:16 AM / 07:16

I stood there while Cody, uh, our officer, Sergeant Mahan, uh, had him take off his shoes. I held a hold of him so he wouldn't fall down. Uh, I, uh, twice I reached out and held him like this so he wouldn't fall. 'cause he was trying to un or trying to kick his shoes off. Uh, and when officer, or when Mahan uncuffed him, I took a, I took a step back.

11:16 AM / 07:56

Anything you wanna ask around? No, I don't have

11:17 AM / 07:58

Any questions.

11:17 AM / 07:59

Do you have any? No, I have. Alright. At this time we just gotta, we, we, I'm gonna have you stay here at the PD route. We need to take a minute to think about this and look at everything. Talk to Eric and, uh, Jason that were there. Try to figure out where to go from here on this. Um, obviously the kid is, I wasn't over there. I was over in, you know, the ditch. But Vicky had, you know, said that he had choked him and slapped him. And,

11:17 AM / 08:33

You know, there's no red marks or anything like that, that, that would indicate that I, my hands and my fingers were closed. I did it purposely, so he couldn't say that I poked him in the throat or I dump some, some kind of, uh, kung fu pressure point. My hands were closed and my hands were up here against his chest. And I pulled him up close and told him to stay off my, or stay out of my fucking property, don't come around my house. He replied that he didn't know that it was my house. I think I did ask him. I said, do you wanna kick in my fucking door like that? And he said, I didn't know it was your house. And I said, don't ever come back to my fucking house. Don't ever come around my fucking house. And he, that was it. And I closed the door.

11:18 AM / 09:14

Okay. All right. Ralph or Sean, you good? Yeah. You're good at it? Yeah. Ralph, you good?

11:18 AM / 09:21

No. Yeah. Are, is this a, a suspension investigation or, because if so, I would, I gonna request an attorney or

11:18 AM / 09:35

Further give us, just give us a little bit. We don't, I don't know where we're at a hundred percent Ralph, until I get all the information about it. Okay. Um, and that's just being honest with

11:18 AM / 09:43

You. No, I, I don't ex I didn't, I don't think you were being dishonest,

11:18 AM / 09:47

So, alright. Yeah, let's take a break. Um, just hang out here, talk with the chief and we'll uh, kind of decide what to do next. Here.

11:18 AM / 09:56

You can ask if you, when you talk to Deputy Steely, you can ask him. I, I asked him, I said, Hey man, I would never do that to you. Please tell him the truth. Uh, I don't want you to think you have to hide anything for me or anything like that. And he said, Nope. He said, I understand. I said I apologize for, for the language that I'd used in front of him and, and that was that. So,

11:19 AM / 10:20

Okay. Alright man. Thanks for you.

After the meeting was over Chief Lukes, Mayor Schlimme, City Coordinator Corey Rheinecker and I meet and discuss the situation. We decided that Officer Jones would be sent home with pay for the day to allow him to relax due to the stress of the incident and the incident at his residence the night before. We advised Officer Jones that we would be considering what type of punishment he would receive for his actions in the near future. Officer Jones understood and went off duty.

On 7/23/24, Officer Jones, Chief Lukes, Officer Otten, and I met to discuss the outcome of the above incident. Officer Jones was given a three-day suspension and required to take counseling

about the issue. See Corrective action form. Later that day Officer Jones filed a grievance. See attached copy. On 7/24/24 Chief Lukes responded to Officer Jone's grievance on behalf of the City.



Form O (05/2024)

Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

500 S. 9th Street - Springfield, Illinois 62701-1924 - Telephone: (217) 782-4540www.ptb.illinois.govSend to: PTB.Complaints@illinois.gov**NOTICE OF INCIDENT / ARREST**

SENDER Information		
Name: Sgt. Cody E. Mahan		Agency: Sparta Police Department
SUBJECT OFFICER Information		
Subject Name: Ralph D. Jones		Subject PTB ID: [REDACTED]
☐ This report is for myself. ☐ My agency <i>has</i> been notified of my arrest. ☐ My agency <i>has NOT</i> been notified of my arrest.		☒ This report is for an officer at my agency. ☐ This report is for an officer at _____.
OFFENSE Information		
Date of Arrest: N/A	Arresting Agency: N/A	
Summary/Description of Incident: Officer R. Jones violated Policy P023 Use of Force. Officer R. Jones used force that was unreasonable and not supported by policy on the juvenile suspect after the juvenile suspect had been handcuffed and secured in the rear of another Officer's patrol car.		
Charging County: N/A	Court Case Number: N/A	Next Court Date: N/A
Charge(s):		
Signature: <i>[Signature]</i> SP5		Date: 7/24/24

Please use additional pages if needed and attach all relevant documentation.



Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

JB Pritzker, Governor
Keith Calloway, Executive Director

Phone: 217/782-4540
Fax: 217/524-5350
TDD: 866-740-3933

August 1, 2024

Chief Sean Lukes
Sparta Police Dept
112 W Jackson St
Sparta, IL 62286

RE: Ralph Jones
PTBID: [REDACTED]
Separation Date: not applicable

Dear Chief Lukes:

The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board has received a Notice of Incident/Arrest for the above-named officer.

Please submit your internal investigative file and copy of final report for this incident to PTB.Certification@illinois.gov. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Sincerely,

Keith Calloway
Executive Director

KC/jrw

Enclosure